



State of Tennessee Board of Emergency Medical Services
For EMS Medical Direction
APPROVED CLINICAL PRACTICES

Effective: 5/13/2020

EMS Specimen Collection and Test Performance for Infectious Diseases

The following procedure and/or patient care issue has been evaluated by the Tennessee State Medical Director for practical use in the interest of advancing patient care and approved for Emergency Medical Services personnel by the Board of Emergency Medical Services.

EMS Specimen Collection and Test Performance for Infectious Diseases

Licensed EMS personnel may obtain dermatological, serologic, oropharyngeal, and nasopharyngeal specimens and perform testing related to Infectious Diseases.

Recommended staff/skill level

Specimen Collection and Test Performance for Infectious Disease testing is to be performed by EMT and above level.

Training/Education Needed

Training and Education regarding specimen collection and test performance will occur at the EMS service level. The EMS Agency's Medical Director, who has authorized the practice, must show documentation of education and competency of each individual provider and the implementation of a written protocol covering the procedure. Training must be done by personnel certified to collect and perform Infectious Disease Specimens and testing, and may be promulgated by a train the trainer approach.

Quality Improvement Parameters

EMS services should carefully monitor the outcomes of testing by licensed EMS personnel. Services should also carefully review patient care reports to ensure compliance with local protocol. EMS personnel must understand the consequences of inappropriate specimen collection, and be provided feedback on specimen quality.

Scope of Recommendation

This recommendation applies to the collection of specimens and test performance by licensed EMS personnel.